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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Country: USSR

Subject: Official Production Figures Machine Tool Output

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1. Two production figures for the 1937 total production of machine tools in the USSR have been reported one of 36 thousand and one of 48,400.

Since all publications in the USSR are official organs, they are supplied with identical official figures. the discrepancy mentioned is the result of faulty translation or interpretation of published material.

2. Soviet machine tool production in 1939, according to official statistics, was 55 thousand units

Whether or not the 1939 production figure includes all machine tools is a question which only a few key men could answer. All Soviet official production figures are purposely inaccurate. The Soviets know that foreign countries collect such statistics, and release figures to create the impression which they desire to make. If they desire foreign countries to believe that USSR industrial capabilities of a military nature are great, they release a high production figure. If, on the contrary, they wish to impress the world with the peaceful intentions of the USSR, they release a low figure. The same system applies to releases of statistics for internal consumption. If the authorities wish to spur workers to greater production, a low output figure is released and is accompanied by newspaper criticism of the efforts of the workers. If the desire is to build up morale, a high production figure is released, accompanied by praise of the workers.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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